Circular Letter No. 93

January 25, 1923.

To Supervisors of Schools.

L adies and Gentlemen:

ABSENCE OF TEACHERS.

The matter of absence of teachers was discussed to some length at our recent Supervisors' meeting. The fact was made clear that there was a great waste in our educational system due to absences which were not justifiable. Through the kindness and leniency of the makers of our school law, a maximum of twenty days absence on salary, is allowed all teachers. This is very fair in every sense of the word, and yet it is a privilege that is so abused that it is the opinion of many of our prominent educators that it should not be granted. The only way to remedy the abuse that is made of this privilege is to limit the grounds on which pay for absence may be allowed. It is impossible to state just what grounds may be justifiable and for that reason each case must be carefully considered by the supervisor. Personal illness, illness and death in the family cannot be questioned. It is to be regretted, however, that in many cases teachers are so lacking in professional interest that they report illness as the cause for absence when such is not the case. A teacher whose health is such that she is constantly absent, should not be recommended for reappointment.

We are asking the Legislature for more money for our schools each year. Are we using to the best advantage that which they have already given us? A teacher should consider that a favor is granted him in allowing absences for matters of private concern, but he has no right to feel that he should be paid for this absence. If you draw a very strict line on allowing salary for absences, there will be fewer children out of school.

Yours very truly,

Signed-- GERTRUDE LIGGET

Acting Commissioner of Education.

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